

FWRA

FORT WAYNE REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1978

A Restatement Of Policy from the President, FWRA

The Fort Wayne Repeater Association has undergone a number of evolutionary changes during its many years of existence, from a small group of individuals who put the first repeater on the air in Indiana, to a closely held corporate type management, to a voted on organization to its present management council concept. The voted on organization didn't really work because, the purpose of our group is not a club or fraternal group, but rather maintaining a viable amateur communications system; hence the management council.

Of course when ever you have two or more people, you will have different opinions and ideas. Recently I have had the feeling that our organization was continuing down an incorrect path; this was originally brought to light at our last general membership meeting. Following that, the council made policy changes that unfortunately were not understood by all management people. A continuing editorial policy in the wrong direction brought about another management meeting in which I expressed my views. A majority of the members agreed as the measures were passed.

Unfortunately, a couple of the members felt they could no longer function in a system that they did not have total and absolute control over, hence Jack Forbing and Dave Dunkleberger resigned. Obviously they felt they had been wronged, as they published copies of their resignations and sent them to a number of individuals. This is indeed unfortunate as both could have contributed greatly to our fine repeater. I have always felt that if your views are not accepted by the majority you work with the majority to get your views across, rather

than quitting because something is not to your liking.

The policy over which the disagreement took place is basically this; we feel we have a good group in the FWRA, and members have expressed fear of using the system. They are afraid they will talk to long and one of us will jump on him or her for doing so. We want our repeater used by all. We all have common sense and know others may want to talk. But for goodness sake use the repeater. If it's 4:30 in the afternoon, sure a lot of people may want to talk, but at midnight when usage is light you are not keeping the system from anyone, or at least during the "beep" pause they should feel free to break in.

We also felt this is a voluntary organization and you can't force someone to support it by publishing names of those late in paying their dues. I think every one knows that the dues money is how all expenses are paid, such as power, telephone, repair parts and new equipment; so we must have dues to survive, but I have had virtually no one complain about the 3.28¢ a day it costs them in tax deductible monies to support the operation.

In a nutshell, too many don'ts have been said about our members and operating practices, as Dave Hayhurst said, "lets publish the positive". We were beginning to sound like the nightly news, all we could talk about were the bad things that had happened. Thanks for your support, and to those of you who have been offended in the past I would like to publicly apologize for offending you and I hope you will join all of us in making FWRA even better in the future.

WR9ADI THE SILENT REPEATER???

By K9KI

The FWRA Management Council wishes to encourage the use of WR9ADI. The repeater is available to all the members who wish to use the system at any time. It is not the desire of the Management Council to keep the repeater silent. The time and effort of the M. C. is not expended to hear a silent repeater if silence means

that people are not using the system when they would like to. The objectives of the Council are, hopefully, the same as the members, to have a repeater that is available for everyone's pleasure and enjoyment. The guideline for use of WR9ADI is the same as those of any other repeater system: The Golden Rule, with courtesy and consideration for the other users. The practice of this guideline will also make any Ham welcome and desired on any repeater system in the country.

Any repeater has a large coverage area and can be accessed by all types of equipment; mobile, handheld, or base. It makes a beautiful vehicle for establishing contact and therefore allows all to monitor a single frequency. This is probably the single most important use of a repeater, 'establishment of contact quickly and efficiently'. The next most important use of the repeater is to enhance communications between stations that otherwise would have difficulty. Two mobiles fifty miles apart cannot normally, effectively, communicate on these frequencies. Lastly, the repeater can be used for short interchanges between base stations. If the desire ^{is} to pass quick traffic the repeater is the natural mode.

Since the repeater is analogous to an old rural party line the basic tenent should keep in mind that when the repeater is in use it is unavailable to others. Hopefully none of us minds waiting a short time for the repeater to become available but few are patient enough to wait long periods. When we use the system we should try to hold the time to a minimum as a courtesy to others.

I have collected a few brief guidelines from literature available. After using a repeater to establish initial contact:

- 1) Keep the conversation as brief as practical.
- 2) Observe the courtesy beep for timer reset and emergency traffic.
- 3) Keep callsigns to the legal minimum.
- 4) Be ever mindful that someone else may be waiting.
- 5) Consider the hour of the day. Rush hours are busy repeater hours.

6) Keep roundtables to a minimum.

If your needs dictate longer use of the system than you feel courteous you could do one of the following:

- a) QSY to a simplex frequency.
- b) Set up a schedule for later when simplex^x is possible
- c) If a or b above are not possible use the machine for a few minutes then pause ~~ofr~~ five minutes, then repeat the procedure.

After establishing contact, The Golden Rule requires that base stations in simplex^x range should QSY. Nothing encourages long conversations more than sitting^u the shack's easy chair. Often before we realize it we have used the machine longer than intended. Any base station should have an antenna on the tower or roof for simplex^x operation. If you do not have one you are missing a great deal of two meter enjoyment. Look in the ARRL Handbook for an inexpensive vertical. Get it up as high as you can and join us on simplex.

Ragchewing should never be on a repeater. Ragchewing can qualify one for the Fickle Finger of Fate Award if done often on a machine. Another way to qualify for this coveted award is to practice REPEATER DX-ING. When the band opens up you can many times tie up several machines simultaneously. Do you^r DX-ING on simplex or SSB.

A very helpful practice to observe on repeaters is to call in when you are available and monitoring. This will inform others that you are available for a call. Someone may be looking for you! It is also helpful to clear the machine when you QRT. When you are calling someone give him time to answer. He may be in heavy traffic or otherwise indisposed at the particular moment. One minute is a reasonable guideline. If you are unsuccessful in your call please clear the repeater so someone else can proceed. As a corrilary, wait for the repeater to be cleared before making your call. Listen for a few minutes before transmitting, if possible.

All of the above guidelines are well recognized and observed by the present users, for which they are to be complimented. Why

are we discussing these topics? The purpose is to ask the members to acquaint new members which appear on the system. If they ask for help by all means give them these guidelines. As most of us have learned by experience, repeater operation consists of 95% listening and 5% operating. You might also point out that 146.49 is being promoted as the primary simplex frequency for use after initial contact. Remind them of the 90 second timer and observance of the courtesy beep. Help to new users is very important since their habit patterns will be established early in their two meter careers. We do them no favors by allowing them to get started on the wrong foot. We must however help them subtly and refrain from causing them embarrassment. Everyone makes mistakes, especially the newcomers. The wise man learns from them, the fool laughs at others mistakes.

Again the Management Council wishes to encourage the use of the repeater by all. We are asking the membership to help encourage the principals of good operation. The Council is available to help all but will not assume the role of "enforcer" or "kilocycle cops" anymore. Self-discipline and leadership by example must be the logo of all if we are to maintain a viable alternative to the Fort Wayne community. The FWRA Repeaters are available to be used and enjoyed by all for calling and QSO's. If you don't take advantage of the opportunity the entire membership suffers the loss.

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As a final note for this issue of the newsletter; please note your address label, we have everything on our computer now. If there are mistakes in yours let us know, it is easily changed (unlike most computers). Also included is a membership list. Please check around, if anyone did not get a newsletter that should, let me know about the oversight. When putting over 100 names into the computer, it's easy to slip up once or maybe even twice!

Your one time editor,

K9OET

P.S. The new address is P.O. Box 5049, zip code 46805.

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